



THE DOMINANT NEWSLETTER

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MCM CREW DOMINANT ON DEPLOYMENT

FINAL DAYS!!! Less than one week until we are back in San Diego with our friends and family. The Month of November was a busy one with change of command, our yard period in full effect and preparing to finish up our 6 month deployment.

First we would like to say farewell to LCDR Lorio after a 15 month tour as MCM Crew Dominant's Commanding Officer. On November 7th he was relieved by LCDR Erdner who was our Executive Officer as part of the new Fleet-Up program that was initiated across the Navy a few years ago. Welcome aboard LCDR Laird! He is our new XO and comes to the MCM community with a strong engineering and navigation background.



USS SCOUT in BASREC shipyard's Drydock.

With less than one month left of our deployment Crew DOMINANT still had a lot of work to complete. Now with the change of command behind us, we shifted our focus to Crew turnover of USS SCOUT. We have been preparing for it since the end of October, but now it is the main show in town for us to ensure a smooth turn over with MCM Crew PERSISTENT. Getting SCOUT ready for turnover in a drydock is no easy task. There are yard personnel working around the clock, inside, outside and in the drydock. SCOUT is having extensive work done to make needed repairs to her propulsion, shafting, underwater hull, topside spaces, the mast and she is receiving combat system upgrades. There is a lot to be done and BASREC is doing a great job. With that said, this has made it a lot harder for the crew to keep the ship clean and in good order. In typical DOMINANT fashion we pressed through and put in the hours necessary each day to keep SCOUT presentable and complete all of our inventories and checklists so that we were ready when Crew PERSISTENT arrived on November 16th. After we greeted them at the airport we helped them settle in at the rooms and got ready for the following morning. The 17th of November marked the first day of the 4-day turnover. The turnover was marked with professionalism from both Crews and ended up as a great experience. The Crew put in many man-hours to make this turn over go as fast and smoothly as possible.

This was the first deployment for 31 sailors and it was memorable for everyone. MCM Crew DOMINANT made it through the ups and the downs of deployment by pulling together as a team. We would like to wish Crew PERSISTENT a safe and productive deployment. To our family members and our friends, we are looking forward to seeing you later this week!

-MN2(SW) Daniel Cadigan, Editor

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CO's COMMENTS

Greetings Crew DOMINANT family and friends! Welcome to another edition of the DOMINANT newsletter. I'd like to start off this issue by recognizing our latest group of Sailors who have been promoted to the next paygrade. We had 14 Sailors selected for advancement for Exam Cycle 212! This is an unprecedented number for a mine sweeper. In addition to those personnel, MN3 Johnson was promoted due to his exceptional academic performance during Mineman A School early this year. In less than one week, I had the pleasure of watching 15 Sailors be "pinned" by their peers onboard. A great way to end deployment!



As you know, I assumed command early this month after serving as the crew's Executive Officer for LCDR Lorio. As executive Officer, I was able to learn from a great leader and mentor while helping to lead the crew through multiple challenges that were all met with success. The experience that I gained working with LCDR Lorio and your Sailors will serve me well in my current assignment and the rest of my time in the Navy. I would like to welcome LCDR Robert Laird to Crew DOMINANT. He is a seasoned officer and a true professional. Within a day of reporting aboard, he integrated seamlessly into the crew by using his drive and vast experience. Welcome aboard Rob!

With a change in Commanding Officers also comes a change to our family support network. Irene Luttrell has done a nice job as the Crew's OMBUDSMAN for the past two Commanding Officers and she is ready to step down after serving Crew DOMINANT for 3 years. I'm looking for a strong spouse who enjoys working with others and is driven to help them too. Additionally, I'm looking for a Family Readiness Group (FRG) President and Vice President. If you are interested or would like to know what an OMBUDSMAN, FRG President, and Vice President do please contact me, or our Senior Enlisted Leader BMCS(SW/AW) Bernard. We are entering the Holiday Season which brings with it time to spend with our loved ones and some down time from busy work schedules. Inevitably this time of year also causes added stress. If you feel that you need someone to talk to or need advice feel free to contact our OMBUDSMAN and the Military One Source website is available for your use at <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/>. It contains contact information and truly is a one stop source of information for Service members and their dependents. Support is available to you 24 hours a day everyday of the week.

We're at the end of our deployment now and ready to fly home. Your Sailors have worked through every assigned task and evolution completing them all in a professional manner. Here is a snapshot of what they have accomplished over the past six months. They completed the Indoctrination Exercise, Exercise SHAMAL 11-2, TACDEV, AIMS, Survey Operations, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Support Operations, proficiency training in all warfare areas, and two Strait of Hormuz transits. Crew DOMINANT also acted as ambassadors of the United States during port visits to Jebel Ali, UAE and Muscat, Oman. Throughout this time, they continued to improve SCOUT's material condition to ensure that she could complete all assigned tasking. Due to their continuous efforts and dependability, they earned praise throughout this deployment from our superiors and peers alike. It is their actions that have earned Crew DOMINANT her outstanding reputation and continue to make Crew DOMINANT the crew of choice to complete the most challenging tasks. Their performance would not have been as sharp without your support. I would like to thank you all personally for the continuous support that you have provided to your Sailors throughout this deployment, and I sincerely hope you enjoy the time you get to spend with them over their leave and this holiday season.

M. T. Erdner

XO's POST

November has historically been seen as a season of change and reflection with the autumn foliage changing colors throughout much of the United States and the Thanksgiving holiday. Crew DOMINANT is fitting into this November theme quite well this year with lots of change and a good opportunity for some well earned rest and reflection time. The intrepid DOMs entered this month in the midst of changing from an operational mindset to one focused on maintenance after bringing SCOUT into dry dock in October. Further change was in store for them as their former XO, LCDR Erdner, took command from LCDR Lorio in a smartly executed Change of Command ceremony that had to change venues at the last

minute thanks to the incoming XO changing from LCDR Leos to myself which delayed the occasion several days. The Crew remained true to their name never missing a beat and giving me a very warm welcome for which I'm very grateful. I'm extremely proud to have the honor of serving Crew DOMINANT as their XO and look forward to doing my part to ensure Crew DOMINANT continues to set the standard for excellence across the waterfronts of both Bahrain and San Diego. Each and every one of the Crew DOMINANT families and friends has every reason to be proud of their Sailor's accomplishments. I hope that you all take full advantage of the post-overseas movement leave period to recuperate from



the deployment, reflect on your experiences and return to CHAMPION with a renewed vigor ready to dominate another round of challenges in another shipyard. Look out for yourselves and each other out there; Crew DOMINANT is nothing without the fine Sailors who comprise her and we need all of you to safely return.

SEL's BLOG

Good Bye Bahrain and HELLO San Diego. At last our deployment is over and we are ready to return to our loved ones and friends. In six months we have learned a lot about ourselves and the Sailors' we work with daily. Like who's the best singer, softball player, basketball player and of course who will be the last man

standing in a game of Call of Duty. Once your Sailor returns, you will hear some of their personal experiences while deployed and some of the things that will be happening over the next couple of months. Like our upcoming Holiday Party on December 15, 2011. As we turn over our precious lady SCOUT and leave her in the best

of care with MCM Crew PERSISTENT. I would like to wish them the best of luck during drydock, undocking and sea trails. I would like to say thanks for all the Support before and during deployment to the family members and friends back stateside. Be safe throughout your holiday and enjoy your day, you deserve it!

CHENG's PIT

November is finally here! As we near the end of our six month deployment Crew DOMINANT Engineers have been busy conducting repairs throughout the plant in preparation for Crew turnover with Crew PERSISTENT. Since our last update we have entered BASREC dry dock and sent an advance party home to take some well deserved leave and prepare USS CHAMPION (MCM 4) for the remaining Crew's return in December. Although the ship is on

blocks and numerous repairs are ongoing, Crew DOMINANT's engineering department continues to thrive and excel on daily basis despite the shift in operational tempo. The change in operational tempo has provided the time to complete some overdue repairs.

Even as our deployment comes to an end and we are preparing for our return to San Diego, two of our engineers have successfully qualified as Engineering Duty

Officer and one as Electrical Plant Control Console operator. Congratulations to EN2 Pablo Diaz and EM2 Gregory Rodriguez on their achievement as EDO and EN2 Diaz for his qualification as EPCC.

As the deployment comes to an end we want to say "Thank you for your support, understanding, and the job you have filled over the last six months. We look forward to seeing you all soon and celebrating the holidays!"

OPS's STAND

180 days. Whether you count it by ones, duty days, port visits, workouts, pay checks, or Friday brunches, it's a long time. By now we've returned home and finished our mission; and after some much earned vacation, we'll begin preparing for our next one. But before we do, I think it's worthwhile for all of us to look back at what's taken place in Crew DOMINANT the last half year.

May and June were extremely hectic as we acclimated to the sauna-like temperatures and got caught up to the operating tempo in FIFTH Fleet. The majority of our underways and exercises took place in this window.

As we settled into our routine the doldrums of mid-

deployment set in. A scheduled three week period in port conducting repairs in July stretched to almost six weeks. This time also coincided with Ramadan, thus limiting some of the opportunities for the crew



MNC (SW) KERSEY PINS MN3 JOHNSON DURING HIS PROMOTION CEREMONY

to enjoy a few weekends in port. By the time we were ready to go again we were on our way down to Oman. Transiting the strategically significant Strait of Hormuz and visiting a new port for all hands was surprisingly

pleasant and the highlight of the deployment, demonstrating the best of what we can do operationally and the cultural experiences available to US Sailors.

The final two months have flown by; living off the ship and receiving some extra per diem has been great for the crew. Equally important have been the experiences and challenges faced by all our family and friends back home. As we reunite, let us share these stories, celebrate a trying time completed, and learn how they've affected our lives and made us stronger and better for going through it. Happy Thanksgiving!

SUPPO's BIN

With deployment rapidly drawing to an end, MCM Crew DOMINANT'S supply department was still kept busy. Whether it was conducting final inventories and postings or helping other divisions out, supply was helping get the job done. Without a galley to cook in, the CS's have broadened

their horizons in several areas, including both LS work and DC.

With only a few days left until we fly home it is time to look back on the past six months and see what was accomplished. Port visits, training, underway time and of course fun, too. For those of us who will remain

with the crew it's a short six months back home and then we fly back out to Bahrain to do it all again. We also said goodbye to Captain Lorio this month. We thank him for his time aboard and wish him well in his upcoming endeavors.

RECOGNITION STAGE

ADVANCEMENTS

Second Class Petty Officer: IT2(IWD) Alegria, EN2(SW) Beers, MN2(SW) Chickering, EM2(SW) Haynes, DC2(SW) Lovorn, QM2(SW) Marrero, EN2(SW) Milhoan, EN2(SW) Smoothers.

Third Class Petty Officer: MN3 Andersen, EN3 Chavez, MN3 Johnson, MN3 Murphy, EN3(SW) Oladapo, MN3 Trinidad.

AWARDS

Meritorious Service Medal - LCDR Lorio.

Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal – LCDR Erdner.

QUALIFICATIONS

ENLISTED SURFACE WARFARE SPECIALIST: MN3(SW) ZAMORA.

Sailor of the Year – HM1(SW/FMF) Elliott Martinez

Senior Sailor of the Quarter



HM1(SW/FMF) MARTINEZ

Junior Sailor of the Quarter



MN2(SW) CRUM

Blue Jacket of the Quarter



EN3(SW) OLADAPO

NEW ARRIVALS

LCDR LAIRD

FAREWELLS

LCDR LORIO

DEPLOYMENT IN PICTURES

